The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

Financial Help Wanted

Local Unions and friends should help the Textile Workers, Glove Workers, and the Calumet victims.

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WAGES REDUCED BY JUDGE

Startling Procedure in Far-away New South Wales.

WAGES-BY-LAW SYSTEM IN FORCE

Court Suspends Increases Agreed to by Wage Boards—European War Is Excuse Given.

Sydney, New South Wales, Jan. 16.—The European war is being taken advantage of in this far-away country to not only check wage increases, but to reduce those already agreed to.

Under the industrial arbitration act, now in force, wage boards set the rates for workers in New South Wales. These rates may afterward be reviewed by the court of industrial arbitration.

Recently Justice Heydon, of this court, while discussing the results of war in Europe, indicated in the following manner that wages could be reduced:

"If the parties concerned in any award should find, therefore, that it ought to be altered, or that fresh provisions are required to meet a state of things never contemplated, they have only to approach their boards or the court. If those who are interested consent to the changes, immediate action can be taken; if, on the other hand, conditions are asked for by one side which are disputed by the other an inquiry can be made at the shortest notice and with the minimum of delay."

Acting on this hint by the court, the association of metal polishing employers appealed from a wage board decision that raised wages in this industry. The decision was ordered suspended by Justice Heydon, who said:

"The consideration of the question was brought before me a short time ago, and I gave a decision then that, so far, at any rate, as government employes are concerned, it was not a time for raising wages, to put the matter shortly. I limited that decision expressly to government employes, although there is no doubt that the principles underlying the decision have a wider application than to mere employes of the government."

For the guidance of boards in the reduction of wages, Justice Heydon said that while "the living wage depends on what you want to live on," and is according to standards, wage reductions "must come down from the top, because the man who is getting the living wage is resting on bedrock apparently."

In the case of increases for leather workers, which was agreed to by the wage board, Justice Heydon, in setting aside the decision, showed the power his court possesses, under the act, to make wage scales, regardless of the necessities of involved workers.

"The court," said Justice Heydon, "is entering upon the consideration generally of the question—in what cases, under the present war conditions, boards should refuse to entertain applications for increases. The decision of the court will have a bearing upon this case, and if it should be necessary, the present decision will be modified, to conform with such rules as the court may lay down.

"I, therefore, suspend until further order the operation of this judgment in those respects in which increases of pay would result."

WANT DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 16.—Trade unionists have filed a bill with the legislature which provides that "all persons qualified to vote for governor shall, at the next state election, have an opportunity to express their opinion by voting yes or no in answer to the following question: 'Shall the representative from this district be instructed to support the initiative and referendum so as to give to the voters the power to accept or reject at the polls measures that have been proposed by petition?'"

In the petition accompanying the bill it is stated that for many years a large body of citizens has urged the passage of the necessary constitutional amendment which will make possible direct legislation, but it has been defeated. It is now asked that this law be passed that an expression of opinion may be secured.

STRIKE DETECTIVES CAN SLUG.

Philadelphia, Jan. 16.—Private corporations are not liable for damages for personal injuries inflicted by policemen in their employ during strikes, according to a decision by the supreme court.

The opinion by Justice von Moschzisker affirmed the action of Judge McConnell, of common pleas court of Westmoreland county, in non-suiting the case of Frank W. Ruffner, who was injured on May 9, 1911, while participating in a parade of striking miners and their sympathizers. According to the testimony, Ruffner was attacked by policemen, who were in the pay of the Jamison Coal and Coke company.

OPPOSE STATE COSSACKS.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 16.—Trades unionists in this state are preparing to offer vigorous resistance to the proposed establishment of a state constabulary along lines similar to the Pennsylvania system. Practically every organized worker in California is a unit on this question which is being met with bitter denunciation by the trade union movement. Union officials declare the bill will never pass, but they purpose taking no chances, and are calling on the membership to emphatically voice their opposition to representatives.

CUTTERS INSIST ON RIGHTS

Gloversville, N. Y., Jan. 16.—Striking glove cutters and makers presented a petition to common council protesting against the acts of various hired and imported persons who have been brought to this city without authority of law, and who have "in certain specific instances assumed the role of thugs and have wantonly, in violation of law, brutally assaulted peaceful citizens of the city of Gloversville, N. Y., without just cause or provocation, and who were peacefully passing along the sidewalks of said city."

Charges were made that the manufacturers are attempting to evade the restrictions imposed upon them by law by using the local police department to deny strikers their right of peaceful assembling and the right to picket. Attention was called to the provisions of the Clayton bill on this subject, and also to the penal code of the state of New York, which says: "But this section shall not be so construed as to prevent the peaceful assemblage of persons for lawful purposes of protest and petition."

City officials denied the imported thugs were employed by them, and promised to investigate the charges. The city attorney stated that the police were ordered to permit picketing.

The cutters and makers have been on strike for several months because of a refusal of their employers to raise wages. When the strike was called, these workers were unorganized, but since then they have been organized with the assistance of the American Federation of Labor.

ANTI-ALIEN LAW IS ILLEGAL

San Francisco, Jan. 16.—A special court of three federal judges has declared unconstitutional the referendum law of Arizona, adopted last fall, and which provides, that no employer having five or more workers can employ more than 20 per cent aliens.

The court held this decision of the people was in violation of the fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution, which provides that no state shall "deprive any person, of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

"The law was intended," said the court, "to be a police regulation, but under guise of police regulation the state was in effect depriving the complainant of his right to labor, guaranteed to him by the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution.

"If, under guise of police regulation, a state can prohibit an employer from employing more than 20 per cent of alien labor, it can prohibit him from employing more than 5 per cent, and if 5 per cent, any at all."

The court made permanent a temporary injunction issued by District Judge Sawtelle, restraining the state of Arizona from enforcing the law.

The British and Italian governments, through their representatives at Washington, had protested against the law, and Gov. Hunt, of Arizona, postponed its proclamation until the case was tried by the courts. The British government based its opposition on the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, while the Italian government insisted the law was a violation of treaty rights. Large mining and railroad interests in Arizona also opposed the enactment.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Representatives of the New York Peace society have suggested to President Wilson the advisability of federal legislation that will make impossible laws similar to the Arizona act, which has been declared unconstitutional by a San Francisco federal court. "The treaty rights of aliens" is urged by those who favor such enactments. The president has said, in effect, that he is not aware of any law that can cover these cases, as each one must be worked out on its own merits.

LAUDS SECRETARY WILSON.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 16.—The Bulletin makes this editorial comment on Secretary of Labor Wilson, formerly secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers and ex-chairman of the Congressional labor group:

"The department of labor comes as near to being a department of the common people as it can, for it is the common people, by some wise dispensation of Providence, who do all the work. So there is no member of the President's cabinet of more potential importance than the secretary of labor. In going through the table of contents in the annual report one will come across a significant variety of subjects—mediation and conciliation in labor disputes, labor distribution, unemployment, immigration, workingmen's compensation, infant mortality, child labor, mother's pensions, juvenile courts, feeble-mindedness, and so on, indefinitely, as one goes into the detailed work of the department and its bureaus.

"It is encouraging to observe that Secretary Wilson, who got some of his industrial experience as an exploited child laborer in Pennsylvania coal mines, has a clear opinion regarding 'what is perhaps the most potent cause of labor disputes—involuntary unemployment.' He is tackling this tremendous problem with every means at his disposal. There is no more important task in the whole United States."

SMALL EMPLOYERS EXEMPT.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 16.—The Superior court of this city has ruled that the state workmen's compensation act does not apply to employers of fewer than five persons. In answer to the claim that many employers and employes have submitted to the jurisdiction of the act who are without its terms if this conclusion is correct, and that public policy should influence a court to accord the act a construction which would confirm a status they have elected to assume, even though such a construction may not accord with the court's convictions, Judge Case said:

"The argument can have no weight with a court squarely confronted with the question at issue here, even if the fact upon which it proceeds is true. The jurisdiction of the statute is fixed by its terms, and neither the acquiescence, submission, or consent of parties not originally subject to its terms can alter or enlarge it."

NO LAWYERS IN THIS COURT.

Chicago, Jan. 16.—A court without lawyers will be established in this city, according to Chief Justice Harry Olson, of the municipal court, who says the new venture "will simplify justice and reduce the cost of 'going to law.'"

"The object of the new court will be to make litigation less expensive," Judge Olson explained. "No lawyers will be needed to obtain justice. The complainant will present his own case and the defendant will voice his own defense. Technicalities will be eliminated from decisions, and much injustice may be averted. Under the present system both parties are obliged to retain lawyers."

The court will first consider cases in which amounts less than $50 are involved. Later its scope will be broadened when other branches are established.

METAL POLISHERS STRIKE.

Wooster, O., Jan. 16.—Members of the Metal Polishers' union, employed by the Buckeye Aluminum company, this city, are on strike. Strained relations have existed between the two parties for some time because of wages and conditions, and when a committee appointed to adjust matters was discharged, the men struck. The polishers say their wages are much lower than those paid in other localities for the same work, and that the management agreed, when called upon some time ago, that the demands were reasonable.

PLEAD FOR CHINESE EXCLUSION

Washington, Jan. 16.—Chinese are crowding the American laundrymen and the Japanese are threatening to crowd the Chinese were the reasons urged by organized laundry employers before the house immigration committee for a more rigid exclusion of Chinese. One of the speakers said 112,000 wage earners in American steam laundries were being affected by state legislation and competition of orientals, and that there were 15,000 Chinese in the laundry business in the United States.

TO CONSIDER UNEMPLOYMENT.

New York, Jan. 16.—Among the plans to be considered by the United States industrial relations commission, according to Chairman Walsh, "is a scheme of social insurance, administered by state and federal governments, to meet the problem created by unemployment, occupational diseases and other evils incidental to our industrial organization."

PRESIDENT GOMPERS DEFENDS TRADES UNIONISM IN INDIANAPOLIS SPEECH

Indianapolis, Jan. 16.—Before a large and enthusiastic audience, President Gompers, of the A. F. of L., delivered a stirring address on the trade union movement and the Clayton amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law. With sledge-hammer logic the unionist piled fact upon fact in his defense of unionism and the right of workers to own themselves.

The plan of reducing wages as a remedy for industrial depressions was riddled, and Federal Judge Anderson, of this city, was notified, in the most vigorous manner, of inherent rights his injunction writs cannot deny.

In referring to an injunction issued by this court last September against Indianapolis street car men from calling a strike, from destroying property, or from inducing or influencing others to join them, President Gompers said:

"My friends, of course no one can justify violence or threats. No one can justify the destruction of property. No one can justify physical or personal assault, but the purpose of including violence and threats and destruction of property is included in this species of restraining orders and injunctions, not because there is any attempt made to restrain men from committing violence or the destruction of property, but it is included to insinuate, to indicate that the men would do this, and it is made the convenience by which and under which the right of persuasion, solicitation and argument may be denied. It is an attempt to couple evil with good, to couple wrong with right, so that the mind of the people may be confused and the denial of rights ordered by a court, by a judge."

President Gompers discussed at length the Clayton law. In referring to its declaration that: "The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce," he said:

"There was a time when men were sold in slavery; there was a time when children were sold in slavery; there was a time when the concept of courts was that the laborer had no rights which the employer or his master was bound to respect, but all through the ages the struggle has gone on, and on and on, and men have died full of faith that is in them, and full of hope of deliverance some day from the yoke of judicial usurpation. The time has come, on October 15, 1914, when the President of the United States affixed his signature to the law that upsets the old-time judicial notions, procedure, decisions and precedents. It upsets the old-time political economist's conception of the human being. There was a time, and not so long ago, it was declared that labor was a commodity to be bought and sold in the open market. Now the law of the United States holds that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or an article of commerce, and it is time that Judge Anderson should know it and respect that law as well as any other law of our nation."

Declaring that he would not violate or transgress the neutrality suggestion of the President of the United States, President Gompers made this comment on the European war:

"Sufficient it is for us to know that it is a conflict which must, we hope, when it ends, have some compensating influence for all the sacrifices of human life which it has and will entail; that the satisfaction may come to the people of the world that this bloodletting and this wholesale destruction of human life, that out of it may come at least, that the institutions of these countries may be democratized; that they shall make for political freedom, that they shall make for a larger understanding of responsibility to the people and make for an everlasting peace which shall recognize as well as establish for all time the brotherhood of man.

"Before leaving that subject, I ought to say that the convention of the American Federation of Labor, which closed a little more than a month ago, declared emphatically its position regarding international peace and war. It took cognizance of conditions prevailing, and undertook to communicate, and did communicate with the representatives of the organized labor movement of the whole world for the purpose of endeavoring to find a way out that shall recognize international peace as the basis, founded upon the political; industrial, economic, social and moral welfare of the people of all the countries of the world."

CHILD ILLITERACY DECLINES

Washington, Jan. 16.—Child illiteracy is on the decline in this country; the higher percentage of illiteracy is in the south; not more than fifteen out of every 1,000 children from 10 to 14 years of age in the entire country are unable to read and write.

These are a few of the interesting conclusions in a report issued by the Federal bureau of education.

An analysis of the figures shows that in 1900 there were forty-two out of every 1,000 children between the ages of 10 and 14 who were illiterate. This number had been reduced to twenty-two in 1910 and to fifteen in 1914.

"From the standpoint of proportional reduction of illiteracy," the bureau says, "Oklahoma leads all states. In 1909 this state had 124 illiterate children of the ages named. In 1910 it had but seventeen. Delaware had twenty in 1900 and but four in 1910. New Hampshire reduced its number from four in 1900 to one in 1910; New Jersey, from seven to two; Missouri, from thirty-five to eleven; Montana and Oregon, from three to one; Vermont, from six to two; New Mexico, from 182 to sixty-nine, and Idaho, from five to two."

According to the bureau, Nevada is the only state which has lost ground since 1900. Its illiteracy was then four; in 1910 it was five. Two states, South Dakota and Nebraska, each having the low rate of two per 1,000, report no reduction of illiteracy between 1900 and 1910.

The states having the largest proportion of illiterate children per 1,000 are Louisiana, with 115 (from 174 in 1900); South Carolina, eighty-three from 150; Alabama, seventy-seven from 157; New Mexico, sixty-nine from 182; North Carolina, sixty-eight from 167; Kentucky, fifty-nine from seventy-nine; Georgia, fifty-seven from 106, and Virginia, fifty-seven from ninety-seven; Tennessee, fifty-four from 119; Florida, fifty from seventy-three; Arkansas, forty-seven from 113.

DEFEAT SUFRAGE AMENDMENT.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Last Tuesday the House of Representatives defeated the "Mondell resolution" which provides that the question of amending the Federal Constitution to permit of women's suffrage shall be submitted to the states for ratification. The vote was: For submission, 174; against, 204; not voting, 46. A two-thirds vote was necessary. Opponents of submission claim this is an infringement of state's rights, and that the various states alone have jurisdiction.

HIGH WAGE WILL CONTINUE.

Detroit, Jan. 16.—While various well meaning people are figuring on the basis of fractions what it costs workers to live, the Ford Motor company, according to its secretary, will continue the $5 minimum wage that has been in force one year. Officials state that the plan has been a success.

CRITICISES PRISON SYSTEMS.

Boston, Jan. 16.—Charles Brandon Booth criticised America's prison systems in a speech in this city. He said Texas profited to the extent of $3,000,000 from her penal institutions last year, while Massachusetts expended $6,000,000. He said men are paid 1½ cents per day and the rest goes to contractors and exploiters.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS FAVORS CO-OPERATION

Indianapolis, Jan. 16.—In his speech in this city on the trade union movement, President Gompers made the following reference to co-operation:

"I wish to say something upon a project inaugurated by organized labor of Indianapolis and which has spread to a considerable part of the state. I refer to your co-operative movement, and let me say to you, my friends, that it is commendable, highly so, and deserving of the greatest success. It teaches working people, first, their duty of self-help and mutual help. It is an aid to the movement. It is an aid to the labor movement proper.

"I bespeak for that institution of yours the success and encouragement it deserves, and you should see that it is given. Maintain good judgment, good business principles, and the highest success will be accorded to it by union labor and those who sympathize with our cause."

MORE REST FOR WORKERS.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 16.—The State Federation of Labor will attempt to amend the one day's rest in seven law, which excludes from its provisions employes of gas and electric manufacturers, drug stores, livery stables, garages and other public or semi-public servants, including employes of hotels and restaurants. The unions have filed a bill which would annul the exemption of hotel and restaurant employes. Other bills include public school text books of Massachusetts make for the children of this state; but five hours of labor a day for children under sixteen, and the transfer of the supervision over employment agencies to the state board of labor and industries.

WANT INSPECTION LAW.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 16.—The Moving Picture Operators' union of this city, has asked the city council to pass an ordinance intended to regulate moving picture houses and provide safety exits for patrons. A board of examiners will license all operators, who are to pay a registration fee of $2.50 for the first year and $1 for renewals. No operator will be permitted to work more than six and one-half hours without relief, and not to exceed eight hours in twenty-four.

WAGES TO BE ARBITRATED.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Jan. 16.—Local newspaper publishers and the Typographical union have failed to reach an agreement on the pending wage scale and the matter will be decided by arbitration.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Washington, Jan. 16.—In a report to the department of commerce, Vice Consul General Louis G. Dreyfus discusses "Insurance for the Unemployed in Germany." He states that "the governments of various states in Germany have commenced studies and investigations of the problems of unemployment. All previous efforts to pass legislation have failed. Various municipalities, however, have inaugurated successful systems of insurance against unemployment. The unemployed are provided with funds enabling them to obtain the barest necessities during this period, thus shielding laborers against absolute misery in times of industrial depression. These systems have generally required the laborer to contribute toward this fund, supplementary to the municipal grants."

The first actual establishment in Germany of a municipal system of insurance against unemployment was in Cologne. It was based on the theory where a worker contributed for thirty-four weeks he was provided with work, and if this were not possible, daily grants of two marks (47.6 cents) during the first twenty days of unemployment and one mark (23.8 cents) during the next twenty-eight days were paid. The rates contributed by workers for the thirty-four weeks were: Thirty-five pfennigs (8.3 cents) for unskilled and 45 pfennigs (10.7 cents) for skilled workers.

This system has since been changed, and the skilled and unskilled are now subdivided into least dangerous, medium and most dangerous, with a corresponding grading of the premium. It has been found impossible to include pieceworkers. The right of support begins after fifty-two weekly payments, but for the first six days of unemployment no daily grant is made. At the present time eight German cities have a system of municipal unemployment insurance. Four cities have the Ghent system of insurance, which is based on grants or subsidies from public funds to trade unions that they may work out their own benefit schemes.

INQUIRE INTO LABOR CHARGES.

Boston, Jan. 16.—It was stated at a meeting of the New England District Council of Electrical Workers' unions that federal authorities are investigating the charge of these workers that the Edison Electric company of this city has violated the immigration laws.

It was also stated that two large shops at Worcester are expected to start work soon under union conditions.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Fargo, N. D., Jan. 16.—Typographical union has secured a new contract with newspapers and job printing offices in this city. The agreement calls for an increase of $2 per week, which nominally means an actual raise in most cases of $1 week, as the greater portion of these workers have been receiving $1 over the scale the past year.

CULINARY WORKERS UNITE.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 16.—Culinary workers in this city have organized and forwarded their charter application to the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' Alliance and Bartenders' League.

WELL-KNOWN TRADE UNIONIST DEFENDS THE IMMIGRATION ILLITERACY TEST

Washington, Jan. 16.—A vigorous defense of the illiteracy test embodied in the Burnett immigration bill was the feature of an address in the House of Representatives by Congressman Buchanan, a member of the House labor group.

The trade unionist questioned the motives of some people who are pleading for "the poor foreign working people," but who remain silent when these same working people, after coming here, "are now being exploited and robbed by the greedy system."

"A part of that same foreign element of whom they speak is today on strike in Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, and other places, trying to protect themselves from those vicious corporations and financial pirates who, through their far-reaching methods of fraud and deception, have induced these people to come here, and are now forcing upon them a yoke of industrial slavery such as never before has been experienced in this American country.

"Why is it that men plead with such apparent sincerity of purpose for the poor, ignorant people of the foreign countries, yet fail to raise their voices to secure protection for them in this country from the industrial combinations that are exploiting them and forcing them to work under conditions that are almost unbearable?"

The speaker declared that the great industrial combinations opposed this legislation because they want cheap, ignorant labor. "They want to get the people that are uneducated, because they are more easily controlled and are more helpless under their process of exploitation. Years ago the steel trust's employes were composed of English-speaking people, while today over 90 per cent are foreigners, who are used to beat down existing living conditions."

In answer to the charge that our forefathers were illiterate, and that for this reason the Burnett bill should be opposed, the speaker showed that conditions have changed by the influx of new types.

"The chief motive of the old immigrant in coming to America," he said, "was to escape religious and political persecution, to acquire homes here, and to establish their posterity upon the land. The old immigration in the main represented a sturdy, intelligent, lofty-minded, and high-spirited citizen, who would not submit to the tyranny of their native countries, and therefore fled here and cast their lives and fortunes with us. They entered almost every line of activity, many of them going on the farms, and were quickly assimilated.

"The new immigration, on the other hand, is actuated by no such ideals. The bulk of the new immigrants have not sought homes here, have not assimilated well, if at all, with our people and institutions, but the tendency has been to settle in colonies in the industrial centers of our country. The reasons for the new immigrant coming here are largely economic. Being induced by the highly colored pictures of prosperity in this country, as portrayed by the agents of the big business interests at work in all parts of Europe, they have sought to take advantage of the high-priced wage in this country, to make a competence and then return to their former homes. The old immigration, as I have said, sought homes in America; the new seek jobs; the old expected to remain, but the new expect to return."

MOTHERS PLEAD FOR PEACE

Washington, Jan. 16.—The mothers of men made passionate pleas for peace among nations at a large meeting in this city last Sunday. Among the speakers were Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, Mrs. Pethrick Lawrence, of London, Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, of Austria-Hungary, Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett, Dr. Howard Shaw, and Jane Addams. The meeting was marked by scathing denunciation of war and its horrors by these eloquent women, who spoke from the standpoint of motherhood, and the grief in thousands of homes. The spirit of the meeting was shown in Mrs. Lawrence's epitome of war, which, she declared, was "murder, rape, pillage, cruelty, waste, and degeneracy."

In resolutions it was declared that as women are custodians of the life of ages, they have pre-eminently the right to protest against the ravages and spoils of war.

A program was adopted for the purpose of enlisting all American women in arousing the nations to respect the sacredness of human life and to abolish war. To this end it is urged:

The immediate calling of a convention of neutral nations in the interest of early peace.

Limitations of armaments and the nationalization of their manufacture.

Organized opposition to militarism in this country.

Education of youth in the ideals of peace.

Democratic control of foreign policies.

The further humanizing of governments by the extension of the franchise to women.

Concert of nations to supercede "Balance of Powers."

Action toward the gradual organization of the world to substitute law for war.

Substitution of an international police for rival armies and navies.

Removal of the economic causes of war.

MORE HUMANITY; LESS BRONZE.

Washington, Jan. 16.—More humanity on the inside and less bronze, marble and granite on the outside of postoffices would tend toward more efficient service, declared Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary of the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks, affiliated to the A. F. of L. The unionist made this statement while discussing retirement legislation in this city:

"Who are the men facing dismissal, and of what crime are they guilty?" he asked. "They are the youths of thirty and forty years ago who have given their brain, brawn and substance—given all they have to give, their labor—toward the perfection of the postal service. These men, whose efforts have made possible the present $3,6000,000 surplus, are to be cast adrift with nothing but that most useless possession—a postoffice training. They are guilty of the heinous crime of growing old."

TO PREVENT UNEMPLOYMENT.

New York, Jan. 16.—In discussing unemployment, Dr. Andrews, secretary of the American Association on Unemployment, says:

"The time is past when the problem of unemployment could be disposed of either by ignoring it, as was the practice until recent years in America, or by attributing it to mere laziness and inefficiency. We are beginning to realize that the causes of unemployment are not so much individual, and due to the shiftlessness of 'won't works,' as social and inherent in our present method of industrial organization."

The following are suggested as remedies: Regularization of industry, establishment of public employment exchanges, systematic distribution of public work, prevention or absorption of surplus labor, unemployment insurance and constructive care of the unemployable.

COMPENSATION LAW UPHELD.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 16.—It is believed the recent decision of the United States supreme court on the Ohio workmen's compensation law has ended litigation based on the constitutionality of this act. The court sustained an award of $16,000 to Harry O. Bragg, who was crushed between two cars in the yards of the Jeffrey Manufacturing company, this city. The company contended that the compensation law was unduly discriminatory, because its provisions did not apply to persons employing less than five laborers. By the wording of the compensation act, the defendant company could not plead the common law defenses of contributory negligence and fellow-servant responsibility.

At the time the suit was brought the compulsory feature of the law had not been added.

VOCATIONAL AID URGED.

Washington, Jan. 16.—A new era for vocational education, especially housekeeping, is about to dawn, according to Chief of the Children's Bureau Julia Lathrop, of the Federal department of labor, who urges that this education and training should begin in the grade schools.

"Especially it is necessary," Miss Lathrop said, "to teach homekeeping to the girls in the years between their graduation and marriage. Universities and schools have been slow to recognize the relation between household and world economics. Housekeepers should be instructed in expenditures. Women are the real spenders of the world, and we must admit they are not as wise on the subject as they should be."

PLEADS FOR CHILD EMPLOYERS.

Washington, Jan. 16.—David Clark, editor and owner of a publication devoted to textile industries at Charlotte, N. C., made a plea for "fair play" for the employers of children in southern cotton mills before the child labor conference in this city. The speaker assured his hearers that this question had been misrepresented, and that many of the children enjoyed themselves at play while working. The statements of Clark aroused many delegates, who made vigorous answer. Wiley H. Swift, of Greensboro, N. C., a former county superintendent of schools in that state, declared that "every effort that has been made to give the commissioner of labor power to inspect the mills has been defeated."

MACHINISTS MAKE GAINS.

Glens Falls, N. Y., Jan. 16.—The Glens Falls Machine company has signed an agreement which carries wage increases of thirty cents a day for all machinists in this concern.

Cohoes, N. Y., Jan. 16.—The Cohoes Foundry and Machine company has signed a satisfactory agreement with its machinist employes.

TO OBSERVE CHILD LABOR DAY.

New York, Jan. 16.—According to the National Child Labor Committee child labor day will be more generally observed than ever this year. January 23 will be observed by Hebrew societies, January 24 by churches, and January 25 by schools.

TYPOS OBSERVE CENTENARY

Unique Celebration in Capital of Nation.

PRINTERS' UNION 100 YEARS OLD

Declaration of Principles, Agreed to in 1815, Is Read from Century-old Book.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Last Sunday a unique and unusual celebration occurred in this city—Columbia Typographical union celebrated its 100 years of continued and uninterrupted existence.

The event was observed by the organization in a fitting manner and one of the largest theaters in the city was crowded with members and friends, while statesmen and trade union officials took advantage of the occasion to recall the advances made by the men and women of toil. This point was the subject of an address by President Gompers, who compared the worker of today with the worker of a century ago. "Then the toiler was burdened with centuries of fear, toil, sorrow and hunger," he said. "Now the men of America are standing erect, asking no favors, but demanding the rights of freedom. In so far as virility, strength, power, influence and effective service are concerned, your organization is younger today than the day it was born."

Secretary Seibold, of the union, read the first declaration of principles, agreed to by the members of the newly formed union, 100 years ago, from the faded century-old record book. The records of fifty years ago were read, in which were contained the story of the half-century celebration, and a request by the secretary at that time that these records be read at the century celebration.

Secretary of Labor Wilson and Representative Johnson, of Washington, were among the list of speakers. The cabinet official said: "The interests of the unionist and non-unionist are identical, but the non-unionist can't see it, because he either fears the employer or wants benefits without paying for them. This old world of ours is fully able to produce all that is necessary to the welfare of mankind, provided it is equitably distributed. I do not believe the solution of the problem of equitable distribution will come as the thought of one mind, however, but, rather, step by step, with the building of one idea upon another."

The Columbia Typographical union was originally organized as the "Columbia Typographical society," but abandoned that name on May 17, 1867, when it affiliated to the International Typographical union.

TO TEST EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The California eight-hour law, which limits the hours of pupil nurses, while imposing no restrictions on graduate nurses, will be tested before the United States Supreme court. Friends of the law argue that pupil nurses are employed primarily for financial gain by the hospitals and while in training are used as "special" nurses, for whom the patinet pays the hospital the high rate set for graduate nurses.

"Such pupil nurses," continue defenders of the law, "are subject to the double strain of long working hours, with consequent heavy responsibilities and the strain of continuing with their student duties. By fixing an eight-hour day for pupil nurses and exempting graduate nurses, the California law protects the exploited nurse and leaves free the graduate nurse to perform the continuous duties of supervision and operating room, which cannot be interrupted without danger."

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 16.—The Ruwart Saddlery company, a contract convict labor corporation operating within the state penitentiary at Jefferson City, is engaged in the manufacture of artillery harness for a foreign government at war with other nations, according to President Bryan, of the Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods, who says this fact has been reported to the governor of Missouri, the state labor commissioner, Dr. E. Stagg Whitin, of the national committee on prison labor; the legislative committee of the Missouri State Federation of Labor, and President Gompers, of the A. F. of L. The state legislature, which is now in session, will consider the question of convict contract labor and the report of a special committee which has investigated the question. It is said the commission will recommend the abolition of the contract system and the establishment of the state use system.

NEW CHILD LABOR LAW.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 16.—Starting with the first of the year, the new child labor law is in effect. No child under the age of fourteen years can be employed, and for those under sixteen a school certificate is necessary. No child under sixteen can be employed in dangerous occupations or one dangerous to the health or morals of the child. The law was adopted by the people of this state on a referendum vote, last September. The State Federation of Labor is given credit for being the main factor in making this enactment possible.

ORGANIZE STATE COUNCIL.

Waco, Tex., Jan. 16.—The printing pressmen of Texas have organized a state council. Among the resolutions adopted was one favoring the printing in this state of text books used in Texas public schools.

PORTO RICANS ASK $1 A DAY

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 16.—One dollar a day of nine hours for Porto Rican canefield workers is urged by A. F. of L. Organizer Iglesias, in "Justicia," official trade union paper, of which Iglesias is editor. This unionist writes:

"This year's crops have begun at a time when sugar is rated at more than $4 on the market, a fact which clearly demonstrates that the sugar concerns are going to reap a golden harvest. The poor, downtrodden working classes of Porto Rico are being victimized and exploited shamefully and their very condition casts a blur and considerable discredit upon the Island and shows that the governing classes, capitalists and legislators, who allow this thing to continue show very little concern for honor and human sentiments.

"It seems that the most available source to which the usurpers of wealth may resort is cutting the wages of the men on the sugar estates, and in view of the fact that the prospects on sugar are getting to be brighter than before, there is yet no indication in sight that the conditions will also be more encouraged for the poor workers of the canefield; though it is through them exclusively that wealth is produced."

POLISHERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Cleveland, Jan. 16.—The Metal Polishers' union and the White Musical Instrument Manufacturing company have adjusted differences which have existed for nearly two years.